



HEALTHCARE ADVISORY MINUTES: PTA

Zoom

Thursday, February 17th, 2022

4pm-6pm

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- I. Welcome & Introductions: Wendy Deras, RDEE Health, Inland Empire
 - Bring resources together and stakeholders together and connect.

 - II. “Inland Empire Health LMI Update” Michael Goss, Director of the Centers of Excellence
 - Labor Market update from Michael Goss
 - As of December 2021 – Unemployment Rate decreased to 5.1% which is down from 15.2% at the start of the pandemic
 - Average unemployment rate in 2021 was 7.2%
 - At the start of the pandemic, there was a loss of 206,700 jobs but, as of December 2021 employers have added 2300 jobs.
 - From December 2021 through December 2022, 6000 more jobs were added with an increase in the region of 4.4%.
 - Major industry sector is Transportation and Warehousing.
 - Healthcare sector has increased just under 2%.
 - Doctor’s office saw a big impact due to the pandemic but since December 2021, there is an increase of 5100 jobs.
 - Nursing/Residential Care Facilities did not see a decline in the pandemic but since January 2021 there has been a decline of 2600 jobs.
 - Future Job market in IE Desert Region – fastest growing region in California. By 2025, it is expected to grow over 15%.
 - Social Assistant sector is expected to grow by 22%.
 - Ambulator Care Services are expected to grow by 15%.
 - Occupations – Physical Therapy Assistant – Associate Degree Program
 - Expecting to have 119 annual job opening with growth in the region by 20%.
 - Wages: Median is \$31/hour = annual wage \$65,000/year.
 - Physical Therapist Aide – High School Diploma
 - Expected to have 95 annual job openings with a region growth of 21%
 - Wages: \$15/hour = median annual salary of \$30,194/year
 - Email Mike Goss (michael.goss@chaffey.edu) if you want any of the reports provide by the Center of Excellence or the website at <https://www.coecc.net>

 - III. Program Update(s), Matthew Wilson, PT, DPT
 - Director of the Physical Assistant Program at the College of the Desert, Palm Desert, CA – First cohort starting Summer 2023

- 1 + 1 Curriculum
- Shared PTA Program Prerequisites and GE Requirements
- Final stages of finding facilities and looking to set up clinical education sites.
- Two internships over 16 weeks – One is a skilled nursing facility for acute rehab and the other is outpatient rehabilitation setting.
- Contact Matthew if you would like him to come out and speak to high school students or zoom meetings about the program.
- CAPTE allows PTA programs to either be set up as a 2-year blended program (students take technical classes along with GE classes) or they allow the 1+1 format (one year GE and one year technical).
- CAPTE does have specific criteria for when the program needs to be completed.

Keynote Speaker: Adeel Rizvi, PT, DPT, PhD, Program Director PTA Program, Chaffey College “DEI in PTA Education, where are we now?”

- Chaffey College will be submitting the application for candidacy next year.
- Two pathways to become a licensed Physical Therapist Assistant. 1- get an associates degree and then pass the licensure exam; 2- complete between 30-60 college credits with certain coursework in Physical Therapy and then challenge the licensure exam (student must have a minimum of 3-yrs clinical experience).
- Question: Can students take GE courses while still in high school so by the time they graduate they have the minimum requirements for a Rehabilitation Aid Certificate? Adeel is working on this type of program now and on a course for an introduction to health professions.
- DEI – Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Vision Statement - the learning continuum begins with exposure to the profession and develop ways to work together for the betterment of the students.
- The path for physical therapy education will focus on two of the six pillars; 1- Accessibility of Education and 2- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.
- Accessibility: make sure that the program is open to anybody that wants to go forward with it.
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: recognizing differences and being accepting of as many individuals as we can.
- Diversity should look at the marginalized individual populations and cultural competency.
- Equity – promoting justice, impartiality and fairness within the procedures, processes, and distribution of resources by institutions or systems.
- Inclusion – ensures that everyone is an active participant.
- Admissions – success begins as soon as a person begins a program.
- Predictors of Success in Health Professions reviewed
- Effects of race and language discussed.
- GRIT = Growth, Resilience, Integrity, Tenacity
- GRIT measures conscientiousness, self-control, emotional regulation, and perseverance.

Moderated Industry Skills Panel

Moderator: Wendy Deras

- Fernando Garcia, PTA, BS, M.Ed. (candidate) – Physical Therapist Assistant
- Sally Matter, PT, DPT – Physical Therapist and PTA Educator
- Omar Estrada, PTA – Physical Therapist Assistant and PTA Educator
- Michael Celi, PTA, MBA (candidate) – Physical Therapist Assistant and Director of Rehabilitation
- Karis Wong, PT DPT – Physical Therapist and College Professor (PTA and DPT)
- Kalina Robles – Marketing Coordinator & Community Liaison Movement for Life Physical Therapy

Question: How many job openings do you have at the facility in which you are working? Are the jobs in physical therapy aid or physical therapy assistant?

Kalina Robles: We have a need for a doctor of physical therapy, DPT in the Indio and Cathedral City Clinics. Also, need an aid in the Cathedral City Clinic and a front office assistant that has experience in Work Comp in the Indio Clinic.

Question: With the Aid position, what educational experience or level do they need to be hired at your facility?

Kalina Robles: Normally, just a high school diploma but we do look for people that are going to school for kinesiology.

Question: What does the hiring process look like and what should students, either high school or college, know about applying for a job?

Michael Celi: Applicants need to be empathetic with our patients and to have good social skills and good communication skills. Time management is important.

Kalina Robles: Empathy is critical. There are multiple rounds to the interview – two or three rounds.

Sally Matter: Experience is good so even volunteering gives experience and gives a greater chance for hiring.

Question: What is the relationship between an Associates of Kinesiology and Associates of Physical Therapy Assistant and how do they intersect and how would I, as a new student, decide which one to go into or what pathway there is?

Sally Matter: Having a Bachelor Degree in Kinesiology is one step for people who would like to be a doctor of physical therapy.

Adeel Rizvi: A degree in kinesiology does not necessarily get you ready for a career. If you want to become a kinesiologist, the minimum is a master's in kinesiology. With a master's in kinesiology, you can get into teaching but if you want to do anything with patient care, then a PT Assistant or PT degree is needed.

Question: College of the Desert will have both kinesiology and a PT program. How will that work?

Matthew Wilson: There are similar courses but it really depends on the path the student wants to take. It is about the initial desire or interest of the student that will draw them to the pathway.

Question: What are you not seeing from your applicants? What would you rather see? What do we not want to forget to put in our curriculum at the associate degree level?

Omar Estrada: People aren't taking the interviews seriously and coming in wearing jeans and tennis shoes. Education about self-pride.

Karis Wong: I would like to see more active listening skills and making it more of a conversation.

Fernando Garcia: Interpersonal communication is important to really manage a patient.

Kalina Robles: Internship programs are available. Communication at any point of contact with the organization needs to be professional and concise.

Question: Do you have any internship, externship, or clinical opportunities? If so, where? How can others align with you?

Kalina Robles: Movement for Life does an internship program in Loma Linda, Cathedral City, and Indio. Contact Kalina. Covid-19 vaccinations are required. High school students accepted.

Question: What do you want teachers or college directors to not miss in the curriculum?

Fernando Garcia: Basic exercise knowledge.

Sally Matter: How to start your own clinic or your own business is missing.

Wendy Deras: Entrepreneurship programs are available.

Omar Estrada: Focus on critical thinking.

Michael Celi: Nutrition for patients. Teach them how to be advocates for our profession and programs.

Karis Wong: Along with critical thinking, teaching them how to navigate different scenarios and roadblocks. Also, being trained in mental health aspects.

Kalina Robles: It's important to have professional relationships and some insight about the business side would be beneficial.

Adeel Rizvi: Health policy and insurance is important for students to understand.

IV. Group Discussions

- Continuing Education courses and/or conferences
- Opportunities are growing and companies offer additional specialties
- Good idea to start at the physical therapy aid certification program

- Other than CPR certification, what other certifications can give students a head start?
Proficiency of how to check vitals and understanding of anatomy would be a good starting point. Medical terminology would also be a key. Learn soft skills is important to know. Basic skills knowledge is key.
- Dual enrollment is something to be worked on.